

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 2-10 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 13 and 17 are rejected. Claims 11, 12, 14-16 and 18-20 are objected to.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent 6,470,984 [hereinafter "Nakajima"]).

The present invention provides a unique combination of elements including the claimed bracket configuration. The applied elements ("brackets" 60, 535) of Nakajima are placed such that a portion of the bracket 535 is positioned inside the larger bracket 60. In contradistinction, the exemplary embodiment of Fig. 2, in the present application, shows a first bracket 7 that is spaced apart from a second bracket 15 in an axial direction of the rotating element. Applicants amend claim 1 to further define this feature. Nakajima does not disclose this feature because the applied bracket 60 is not spaced apart from the bracket 535 in the axial direction. Instead, the brackets 60, 535 are fastened together to contact each other and overlap in the radial direction. Applicants therefore submit that Nakajima fails to disclose each feature recited in amended claim 1, such that the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 13 and 17 are similarly allowable over Nakajima at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon claim 1.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 10/694,894

Attorney Docket No.: Q78196

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

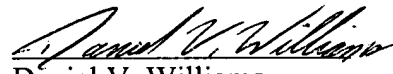
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